

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A method of protecting keratin materials from the harmful effects of pollution, comprising topically applying a composition comprising ~~an~~ a pollutant penetration limiting effective amount of cubic gel particles to ~~said~~ keratin materials in need of protection from the harmful effects of pollution.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cubic gel particles are in aqueous dispersion.

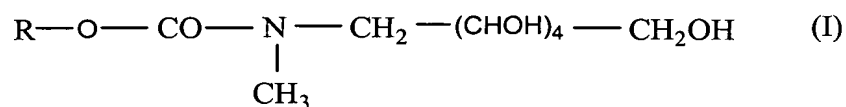
4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cubic gel particles are formed from a mixture comprising:

(i) 0.1% to 15% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 3,7,11,15-tetramethyl-1,2,3-hexadecanetriol, phytanetriol, N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivatives of N-methylglucamine and unsaturated fatty acid monoglycerides; and

(ii) 0.05% to 3% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of at least one dispersing and stabilizing agent selected from the group consisting of surfactants that are water-soluble at room temperature and containing a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched fatty chain containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms.

5. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein a weight proportion of compound (i) to said dispersing and stabilizing agent (ii) ranges from 2 to 200.

6. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivative of N-methylglucamine corresponds to formula (I) below:



in which R represents a branched alkyl radical containing from 6 to 18 carbon atoms.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein said N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivative of N-methylglucamine is chosen from N-2-hexyldecyloxycarbonyl-N-methylglucamine, N-2-ethyl-hexyloxycarbonyl-N-methylglucamine and N-2-butyloctyloxycarbonyl-N-methylglucamine, and mixtures thereof.

8. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the cubic gel particles contain as compound (i) a mixture consisting of from 1% to 40% by weight of phytanetriol relative to the weight of the mixture and from 60% to 99% by weight of N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivative of N-methylglucamine relative to the weight of the mixture.

9. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said unsaturated fatty acid monoglyceride is selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate and glyceryl monolinoleate.

10. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the cubic gel particles contain as compound (i) a mixture consisting of from 1% to 50% by weight of phytanetriol relative to the weight of the mixture and from 50% to 99% by weight of unsaturated fatty acid monoglyceride relative to the weight of the mixture.

11. (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said dispersing and stabilizing agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) alkyl or alkenyl ethers or esters of a polyol,
- (2) N-acyl amino acids and derivatives thereof, and peptides N-acylated with an alkyl or alkenyl radical, and salts thereof,
- (3) alkyl or alkenyl ether or ester sulphates, derivatives thereof and salts thereof,
- (4) polyoxyethylenated fatty alkyl or alkenyl ethers or esters,
- (5) polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkenyl carboxylic acids and salts thereof,
- (6) N-alkyl or alkenyl betaines,
- (7) alkyl or alkenyl trimethylammoniums and salts thereof, and
- (8) mixtures thereof.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~12~~ 31, wherein the amphiphilic compound which forms a lamellar phase is selected from the group consisting of diglyceryl monoesters.

14. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~12~~ 31, wherein the amphiphilic compound which forms an inverse hexagonal phase is selected from the group consisting of diglyceryl mono-, di- or triesters and aminopolyol carbamates, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~12~~ 31, wherein the amphiphilic compound which forms a lamellar phase is selected from the group consisting of diglyceryl isostearate and diglyceryl monooleate, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~12~~ 31, wherein the amphiphilic

compound which forms an inverse hexagonal phase is selected from the group consisting of diglyceryl 2decyltetradecanoate, diglyceryl di/trioleate, 3-N-(2-decyltetradecyloxycarbonyl)aminol, 2propanediol and N-2-dodecylhexadecyloxycarbonyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine, and mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~12~~ 31, wherein the mixture of the two amphiphilic compounds consists of from 10% to 90% by weight of the amphiphilic compound which forms a lamellar phase and from 10% to 90% by weight of the amphiphilic compound which forms an inverse hexagonal phase, relative to the total weight of the mixture.

18. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~12~~ 31, wherein the mixture of the two amphiphilic compounds is selected from the group consisting of the following mixtures:

- 55% to 75% by weight of diglyceryl isostearate and 25% to 45% by weight of diglyceryl 2-decyltetradecanoate;
- 30% to 65% by weight of diglyceryl isostearate and 35% to 70% by weight of diglyceryl di/trioleate;
- 75% to 85% by weight of diglyceryl isostearate and 15% to 25% by weight of 3-N-(2-decyltetradecyloxycarbonyl)amino-l, 2-propanediol;
- 55% to 75% by weight of diglyceryl isostearate and 25% to 45% by weight of N-2-dodecylhexadecyloxycarbonyl-N-methyl-D-glucamine; and
- 15% to 50% by weight of diglyceryl monooleate and 50% to 85% by weight of diglyceryl di/trioleate.

19. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cubic gel particles have a size

ranging from 0.05 μm to 1 μm .

20. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the dispersion of cubic gel particles further comprises at least one water-insoluble ionic amphiphilic lipid.

21. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 20, wherein said water-insoluble ionic amphiphilic lipid is at least one selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) phospholipids,
- (ii) phosphoric esters of fatty acids,
- (iii) water-insoluble N-aryl derivatives of glutamic acid and salts thereof,
- (iv) sodium cetyl sulphate,
- (v) sodium cocoylmonoglyceride sulphate, and
- (vi) water-insoluble quaternary ammonium derivatives.

22. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cubic gel particles further comprise at least one hydrophilic and/or lipophilic active principle.

23. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cubic gel particles are present in an amount ranging from 0.1% to 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

24. (Currently Amended): A treatment process for protecting a keratin material against the effects of pollution, comprising applying to keratin material in need of protection from the harmful effects of pollution a composition comprising ~~an~~ a pollutant penetration limiting effective amount of cubic gel particles in a physiologically acceptable medium.

25. (Withdrawn): A treatment process for improving the cell respiration and/or for reducing desquamation and/or for preventing keratin material from becoming dull and/or dirty, comprising applying to the keratin material a composition comprising an effective amount of cubic gel particles in a physiologically acceptable medium.

26. (Original): The process of claim 24, wherein said keratin material is the skin.

27. (Withdrawn): The process of claim 25, wherein said keratin material is the skin.

28-30. (Canceled):

31. (New): A method of protecting keratin materials from the harmful effects of pollution, comprising topically applying a composition comprising an effective amount of cubic gel particles to said keratin materials, wherein the cubic gel particles are formed from a mixture of at least two amphiphilic compounds, wherein one of the amphiphilic compounds forms a lamellar phase in the presence of water, and the other forms an inverse hexagonal phase in the presence of water.

32. (New): A treatment process for protecting a keratin material against the effects of pollution, comprising applying to keratin material in need of protection from the harmful effects of pollution adhesion to skin a composition comprising a pollutant adhesion limiting effective amount of cubic gel particles in a physiologically acceptable medium.

33. (New): The method of claim 4, wherein the cubic gel particles are formed from a mixture comprising 0.1% to 15% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of phytanetriol.

34. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein the cubic gel particles are in aqueous dispersion.

35. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein a weight proportion of compound (i) to said dispersing and stabilizing agent (ii) ranges from 2 to 200.

36. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein said dispersing and stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) alkyl or alkenyl ethers or esters of a polyol,
- (2) N-acyl amino acids and derivatives thereof, and peptides N-acylated with an alkyl or alkenyl radical, and salts thereof,
- (3) alkyl or alkenyl ether or ester sulphates, derivatives thereof and salts thereof,
- (4) polyoxyethylenated fatty alkyl or alkenyl ethers or esters,
- (5) polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkenyl carboxylic acids and salts thereof,
- (6) N-alkyl or alkenyl betaines,
- (7) alkyl or alkenyl trimethylammoniums and salts thereof, and
- (8) mixtures thereof.

37. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein said cubic gel particles have a size ranging from 0.05 μm . to 1 μm .

38. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein said cubic gel particles have a size ranging from 0.05 μm . to 1 μm .

39. (New): The method of claim 33, wherein the dispersion of cubic gel particles further comprises at least one water-insoluble ionic amphiphilic lipid.

40. (New): The method of claim 39, wherein said water-insoluble ionic amphiphilic lipid is at least one selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) phospholipids,
- (ii) phosphoric esters of fatty acids,
- (iii) water-insoluble N-acyl derivatives of glutamic acid and salts thereof,

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- (iv) sodium cetyl sulphate,
- (v) sodium cocoylmonoglyceride sulphate, and
- (vi) water-insoluble quaternary ammonium derivatives.

41. (New): The method of claim 33 wherein said cubic gel particles further comprise at least one hydrophilic and/or lipophilic active principle.